



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, to 4.5 percent, in November 2000 from October's rate of 4.4 percent. Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows the number of individuals who were employed increased by 450 and the number of individuals who were unemployed increased by 30. Since the unemployment rate is based on the number of individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*, which increased by 490 individuals in November, the unemployment rate increased slightly. Seasonal changes this time of year, such as continuation and completions of harvest, wrap up of outside construction, and transition from summer/fall related activities to the winter recreation season contributed to changes in the labor force.

November 2000 unemployment rates for each of the Southeast Idaho Counties is listed in Southeast Idaho Table 2 and shows Oneida County had the lowest unemployment rate in November 2000 at 3.2 percent and Power County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 percent. In 2000, Oneida County is projected to have the lowest annual average unemployment rate at 3.4 percent and Power County is projected to have the highest annual average unemployment rate at 6.4 percent.

Southeast Idaho Table 2: Unemployment Rates  
November 2000 - seasonally adjusted

	Nov-00 Preliminary	Projected 2000 average
Bannock County	4.5	4.6
Bear Lake County	5.3	5.1
Bingham County	4.4	4.1
Caribou County	5.6	5.5
Franklin County	3.4	3.5
Oneida County	3.2	3.4
Power County	6.8	6.4

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 150 in November 2000, dropping from 34,190 in October 2000 to

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Nov 2000*	Oct 2000	Nov 1999	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>	41,690	41,200	41,350	1.2%	0.8%
Civilian Labor Force	1,860	1,830	1,920	1.6%	-3.1%
Unemployment	4.5	4.4	4.6		
% of Labor Force Unemployed	39,820	39,370	39,430	1.1%	1.0%
Total Employment					
<b>Unadjusted</b>	42,040	41,080	42,090	2.3%	-0.1%
Civilian Labor Force	1,780	1,640	1,840	8.5%	-3.3%
Unemployment	4.2	4.0	4.4		
% of Labor Force Unemployed	40,260	39,440	40,250	2.1%	0.0%
Total Employment					
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	34,040	34,190	33,600	-0.4%	1.3%
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,650	4,730	4,720	-1.7%	-1.5%
Mining & Construction	1,640	1,720	1,850	-4.7%	-11.4%
Manufacturing	3,010	3,010	2,870	0.0%	4.9%
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	29,390	29,460	28,880	-0.2%	1.8%
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,920	1,910	1,840	0.5%	4.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,470	1,440	1,480	2.1%	-0.7%
Retail Trade	7,260	7,280	7,250	-0.3%	0.1%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,480	1,460	1,450	1.4%	2.1%
Services	8,120	7,990	7,620	1.6%	6.6%
Government Administration	3,460	3,530	3,480	-2.0%	-0.6%
Government Education	5,680	5,850	5,760	-2.9%	-1.4%

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

34,040. Job reductions occurred in both the *Goods-Producing* and *Service-Producing Industries*.

### Goods-Producing Industries

A long and warm fall allowed construction work to continue through October, but colder weather and snowfall stopped much of the outside construction work in November. *Construction* jobs fell from 1,720 in October 2000 to 1,640 in November 2000, a loss of 80 construction jobs. Seasonal factors did not affect *Manufacturing* jobs in November and the number of manufacturing jobs was unchanged from October 2000 to November 2000 at 3,010.

### Service-Producing Industries

Seasonal factors affected the *Service-Producing Industries* in November, driving the overall number of jobs down by 70 from October 2000 to November 2000. Upward and downward movement in the number of jobs varied within the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Wholesale Trade* gained 30 jobs in *Trucking and Warehousing* because merchants prepared for the holiday shopping season. *Retail Trade* lost 20 jobs overall but gains and losses occurred within the industry. Preparation for the holiday shopping season, opening of the new Fred Meyer Super Store, and hiring for Wal-Mart's ex-

pansion drove jobs in *General Merchandise Stores* up by 200. *Apparel* and *Miscellaneous Retail Stores* added another 50 seasonal jobs. But, *Building Materials & Garden Supplies*, *Food Stores*, and *Eating & Drinking Establishments* dropped nearly 300 jobs as those businesses fell between their busy shopping seasons. *Services* gained 130 jobs with increases in *Business Services*, *Health Services*, *Social Services*, and *Nonprofit Organizations*. Seasonal factors such as wrap-up of harvest, cold weather, and holiday activities contributed to job increases. Seasonal related job reductions in *Government Administration* and *Government Education* outnumbered job gains in the remaining *Service-Producing Industries*. Cold weather stopped road repair work and parks maintenance work, eliminating 70 jobs. Reductions in student employment at ISU in preparation for the holiday break reduced another 170 jobs.

### **SPECIAL TOPIC: Labor Supply and Demand**

Even though the unemployment rate has declined over the past few years, the labor supply is still adequate in Southeast Idaho. In November, with the exception of a few occupational categories, there were many more people seeking jobs than there were job opportunities. Some high-demand occupations where labor supply is tight include: Engineers, Registered Nurses, Nurses Aides, Cashiers, Servers, Fast Food Workers, Cooks, Telemarketers, Potato Laborers, Sales Representatives, Welders, and Truck Drivers. Southeast Idaho Table 3 shows the number of jobs openings versus applicants in the Pocatello and Blackfoot Job Service Offices by major occupational categories. Job opportunities are listed for each job that is available. However, applicants may be counted more than once because they can choose more than one occupation for which they are interested in obtaining employment. If an applicant chooses more than one occupation within the same occupational category, then the applicant may be counted more than once in that group; and if an applicant chooses more than one occupation and those occupations fall within different occupational categories, then the applicant may be counted in several occupational categories. Therefore, the discrepancy between applicants and job opportunities may not be as large as it appears. Another anomaly that may appear is in *Processing Occupations* and *Miscellaneous Occupations*. There are similar types of jobs in both categories so applicants for processing positions are likely listed under miscellaneous occupations, which would increase the number of people actually looking for processing work. When a Job Service Consultant attempts to match applicants to job opportunities, they will look under other occupational categories to insure the best possible match for referral to

job opportunities. *Clerical/Sales and Services* had the highest percentage (39.6 percent) of job opportunities and also the highest percentage of job applicants (33.2 percent). On the low end was *Benchwork Occupations* with six-tenths of a percent of the job opportunities and 1.8 percent of the applicants. *Processing Occupations* had 39.6 percent of the job opportunities but it only had 3.3 percent of the applicants, which would indicate a worker shortage in that occupational category. In contrast, the *Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations* had 12.8 percent of the job opportunities and 24.5 percent of the applicants, which indicate a surplus of workers in the occupational category.

During recent applicant recruitments at the Pocatello and Blackfoot Job Services, hundreds of applications were received. Many applicants are currently working but seeking other employment opportunities or seeking a second job. Most workers seek better pay, flexibility to accommodate transportation and child-care issues, an improved work environment, and healthcare and retirement benefits.

SOUTHEAST IDAHO TABLE 3: POCATELLO AND BLACKFOOT JOB SERVICE - Job Listings and Applicants		
JOB CATEGORY	Current Openings	Applicants
Professional, Technical, and Managerial Occupations	130	3,637
Clerical and Sales Occupations	401	4,936
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related Occs.	14	687
Processing Occupations	324	497
Machine Trades Occupations	18	665
Benchwork Occupations	6	272
Structural Work Occupations	43	2,152
Miscellaneous Occupations	76	1,980
Total openings and applicants	1012	14,826
* Job applicants can select up to six separate job categories so may be counted more than once in the applicant base.		

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